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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Berezhany-Ray Forests/Timber Production/
Characteristics of Inhabitants

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1. The Berezhany-Ray forests developed around the Count Potocky Estate of 16,000 hectares. During the Soviet occupation, 1939-41, they nationalized the Potocky Estate and attached or added additional acreage. The new complex was called the Berezhnanskyj-Lishosp and it totaled over 32,000 hectares. The Lishosp inaugurated a plan for a yearly production of 80,000 cubic meters of wood and 2,000 kilograms of root *Evonymus verrucosa*. 50X
2. During the [] occupation a reorganization again took place. Forests, belonging to other than the original Berezhany-Ray complex, were returned to their original status and the remainder was divided into two sections, Ray-East of over 10,000 hectares and Ray-West of over 12,000 hectares. Ray-East included the following five forests: Baznykiwka, Koniuchy, Kozhadiw, Urman, and Szybelyn. At first the administrative center for these five forests was located in Ray and later, 1943, it was moved to Dryszczew. The Ray-West had six forests: Werbiw, Kuriany, Lisnyky, Narajiw, Ray, and Trostianec.
3. Both Ray-West and Ray-East had similar hilly terrains separated by the Zolota Lypa River. The forests were exploited with reforestation and development of farm lands primarily in mind. Reforestation of Ray-East was accomplished with seed for oak and by seedlings for beech trees. This area contained ash, hornbeam, maple, birch, elm, and cherry trees. There were also moderate growths of sycamore especially near the village of Zwiryn. Growth of 100-year pine were located near the village of Urman.
4. Oak trees, in the forests of Koniuchy, Krywow, and Szybelyn, were very scarce because of extensive felling and poor reforestation. The Ray-East yearly plan for 1944 called for a quota of 10,000 cubic meters of lumber, primarily beech and hornbeam.
5. The primary trees felled in Ray-West were beech, ash, and other hard woods with the exception of oak. This area once contained many large hard wood trees as was evident by the remaining stumps. An occasional large oak was felled from which at least 32 cubic meters of lumber could be obtained.

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A growth of oak, with trees approximately 2 meters in diameter, was left standing near the village of Ray. Two-hundred-year-old pine and sycamore, some 37 meters in height, were also left standing near the same area. On the outskirts of Berezhany, along the road leading to the forests, there were many 300-year old elm trees.

6. The forests in Ray-West contained 60% beech, 30% hornbeam, 7% oak, and 3% birch and others. There were also the usual nut and fruit trees and a few maple, ash, elm, and aspen trees. Only fifteen years earlier the percentage of oak trees exceeded that of hornbeam. Careless reforestation and extensive felling destroyed the magnificent growths of oak. The soil in the area had a high lime content which contributed greatly to the rapid growth of beech. All growths of beech from small seedlings to large trees were carefully cultivated. This resulted in steady work and excellent livelihood for the local inhabitants. During the [] occupation, [] forestry engineers took special interest in the methods used for developing the growth of beech. 50X1-HUM
7. Ray-West production of lumber was three to four cubic meters per hectare of forest. From other forests in the vicinity it was from 0.5 to one cubic meter per hectare. In 1943-44 Ray-West produced approximately 30,000 cubic meters of wood. Sixty per cent was lumber material and material for railroad ties. Most of the trees were taken to the modern saw mills at Potutorach. Other saw mills in the area were primitive and small. Approximately 2,000 cubic meters of beech logs were sent directly to Berlin annually. 50X1-HUM
8. Areas cleared of beech trees were resseeded in oak. Oak seedlings were also planted throughout the forest wherever an opening or clearing occurred. The care of oak trees began during the Soviet occupation and reached its lowest point by the year 1944.
9. Ray-West also contained four tree farms planted in oak, ash, maple, and fir. Although the fir trees were subject to root diseases, they seemed to thrive better than oak, maple, and ash.
10. The personnel engaged in forestry in Ray-East consisted of 40 foresters, three of whom were Polish and the remainder Ukrainians. Ray-West had approximately 50 foresters, all of whom were Ukrainian. This did not include the administrative personnel which was a very small force and were not necessarily experienced in lumbering methods. Personnel to do lumbering in the forests was readily available. No special qualifications were necessary and in addition to pay forestry workers were allowed to take home wood for fuel and occasionally wood for building material.
11. The Berezhany-Ray area contained three small lakes located near Berezhany, Urman, and Potutorach. The largest was Lake Berezhany located on land higher than the city of Berezhany. A dam was located above the city. If destroyed, the city would be quickly flooded. All three lakes were on the Zolota Lypa River, which was the largest river in the area. It originated near the village of Kindratow and flowed through the Berezhany district into the Dnestr River near the village of Myznev. A smaller stream, the HaraJivka west of Berezhany, flowed into the Hnyla Lypa at Bolszowicz. The stream Koropec, which was east of Berezhany, flowed into the Dnestr at Koropec. 50X1-HUM
12. In general, roads of the Berezhany district were somewhat better than those of the Rogatin district []. The main roads were hard surfaced or well travelled while the county, village, and private roads were also better maintained. 50X1-HUM
13. The population in the Berezhany-Ray area was primarily Ukrainian. The people were energetic, very nationalistic, and sympathetic to partisan action against [] Soviet occupiers. For many years this area was the scene of partisan and underground activity and also contained some of the best organized anti-Soviet groups. 50X1-HUM

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